

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-16, 18-32, 34-43 and 45-50 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 27, 31 and 40-42 have been amended. The above amendments and the following remarks are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claim priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-16, 18-32, 34-43 and 45-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Replication Server Design Guide*, Sybase Inc., May 29, 1998, hereinafter "RepSvr," in view of Schwaller et al. (US Pat. No. 6,061,725), hereinafter "Schwaller." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons that follow.

First, Applicants submit that the suggested combination of prior art does not disclose or suggest each and every claimed feature. The claimed invention includes, *inter alia*, "a time duration of each repeating step is necessarily shorter than a preceding repeating step, and transaction service on the second server is paused until the providing step [,]" as recited in claim 1 and claimed similarly in claims 13, 27, 31 and 40-42. (Emphasis added). As described by the